

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMCONSUL MUNICH

USMISSION USNATO

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USIA WASHDC

USDEL SALT TWO GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 5679

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UR, US

SUBJECT: SUSLOV SPEECH AT LENIN BIRTHDAY CEREMONY:

FOREIGN POLICY ASPECTS

GENEVA FOR USDEL CSCE

USIA FOR IBS, IEE, IPS

1. SUMMARY. CHEF PARTY IDEOLOGUE MIKHAIL SUSLOV PRESENTED

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THE PARTY REPORT TO THE CEREMONY COMMEMORATING THE 105TH

ANNIVERSARY OF LENIN'S BIRTH APRIL 22. THE PORTIONS OF HIS SPEECH DEVOTED TO THE INTERNATIONAL SITUATION CONTAINED NO NEW POLICY INITIATIVES. THE SPEECH WAS NEVERTHELESS A CLEAR STATEMENT OF THE SOVIET UNDERSTANDING OF EAST-WEST RELATIONS, WELCOMING A FURTHER DEEPENING OF DETENTE BUT AT THE SAME TIME EMPHASIZING THAT BOTH POLITICAL AND MATERIAL AID TO NATIONAL LIBERATION AND PROGRESSIVE FORCES CONTINUES TO BE "ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT PRINCIPLES" OF SOVIET FOREIGN POLICY. ON THE MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTHEAST ASIA, SUSLOV PARROTED STANDARD SOVIET POSITIONS. HE SHIED AWAY FROM A DIRECT STATEMENT OF OFFICIAL SUPPORT FOR DEVELOPMENTS IN PORTUGAL, THOUGH HE NOTED THE POSITIVE NATURE OF DEVELOPMENTS THERE, AND PRESUMABLY EVENTS IN PORTUGAL AS WELL AS INDOCHINA ACCOUNT FOR HIS EMPHASIS ON SOVIET SUPPORT FOR "PROGRESSIVE" FORCES. OTHER ASPECTS OF THE SUSLOV SPEECH AND IMPRESSIONS ON THE CEREMONY AND OFFICIALS WHO ATTENDED THE CEREMONY ARE BEING REPORTED SEPTTEL. END SUMMARY.

2. SUSLOV'S SPEECH IS A FAIRLY STANDARD, IF FORCEFULLY STATED, SOVIET ASSESSMENT OF THE PRESENT INTERNATIONAL SITUATION. IT REFLECTS THE GROWING SOVIET SELF-CONFIDENCE WHICH HAS RESULTED FROM RECENT EVENTS ON THE WORLD SCENE, AND AT TIMES IS NEARLY IMPERIOUS IN TONE. IT CONTAINS NOTHING SUBSTANTIVELY NEW IN THE WAY OF POLICY INITIATIVES.

3. THE SPEECH STATES IN FORTHRIGHT TERMS THE TWO SIDES OF THE PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE COIN. IT ASSERTS THAT DETENTE IS "DEEPENING AND BECOMING MORE STABLE," AND TICKS OFF THE MAJOR CAPITALIST COUNTRIES WITH WHOM RELATIONS HAVE IMPROVED. SUSLOV LISTS THE U.S.A. FIRST IN THIS SERIES, AND NAMES THE INTERIM AGREEMENT AS THE PRIMARY EXAMPLE OF USEFUL BILATERAL AGREEMENTS REACHED WITH THE WEST. HE SPEAKS ON CSCE (MAKING NO MENTION OF SPECIFIC TIMING ON THE THIRD STAGE, THOUGH URGING IT BE "SOONEST"), AND CLAIMS THAT THE CONFERENCE SHOULD SERVE TO CREATE AN ATMOSPHERE OF "MUTUAL TRUST" AND COOPERATION AMONG THE EUROPEAN NATIONS. HE ALSO

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MENTIONS PROGRESS IN ECONOMIC COOPERATION WITH THE WEST, THOUGH REBUFFING THE U.S. (WITHOUT NAMING US) FOR ATTEMPTING TO FORCE DISCRIMINATORY MEASURES ONTO THE SOVIETS.

4. AT THE SAME TIME, SUSLOV REASSERTS WITH EMPHASIS THAT PROVISION OF "POLITICAL AND MATERIAL ASSISTANCE" TO PEOPLES FIGHTING FOR "NATIONAL AND SOCIAL LIBERATION"

REMAINS "ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT PRINCIPLES" OF SOVIET FOREIGN POLICY. AND WHILE HE NOTES THAT "BROAD NEW PROSPECTS" ARE OPENING UP FOR A FURTHER STABILIZATION OF PEACE, HE SAYS THAT THESE SAME OPPORTUNITIES APPLY TO A "FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF THE WORLD REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT."

5. SUSLOV UNDERLINES THAT AT THE BASE OF DETENTE LIES "A FUNDAMENTAL CHANGE IN THE CORRELATION OF FORCES,.... A FACTOR OF UNSURPASSED SIGNIFICANCE." HE TICKS OFF THE FACTORS IN FAVOR OF THE "SOCIALIST" STATES IN THE PRESENT STRUGGLE, EMPHASIZING THE SUPERIORITY OF "SOCIALIST" UNITY OF ACTION (AND SINGLING OUT THE MEETINGS OF THE WARSAW PACT POLITICAL CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE AS "AN IMPORTANT FORM" OF FOREIGN POLICY COORDINATION FOR THE FRATERNAL STATES). HE RECOUNTS AT LENGTH FACTORS GOING AGAINST THE CAPITALIST WORLD, DWELLING ON THE WEST'S ECONOMIC CRISIS. AND HE GREETES CHANGES IN THE THIRD WORLD, INCLUDING THOSE RESULTING IN THE COLLAPSE OF "NEOCOLONIALIST" ECONOMIC SUBJUGATION OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, AS ALSO BEING AIMED "AS A WHOLE" AGAINST "IMPERIALISM".

6. HE BY IMPLICATION ACKNOWLEDGES THE DEBATE IN THE OUTSIDE WORLD ON DETENTE, AND EMPHASIZES THAT SOVIET ASSESSMENT IS "REALISTIC," SINCE IT IS BASED ON AN AWARENESS OF THE CHANGING CORRELATION OF FORCES. HE WARNS, HOWEVER, THAT IN THE WEST OPPONENTS OF DETENTE HAVE "RECENTLY" BECOME ACTIVE AGAIN, AND ARE PROPAGATING ANTI-SOVIETISM AND ANTICOMMUNISM.

7. SUSLOV SHIES AWAY FROM ANY DIRECT STATEMENT OF SUPPORT BY THE SOVIET UNION FOR POLITICAL FORCES IN PORTUGAL,
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SAYING ONLY THAT "SOVIET PEOPLE" ARE FOLLOWING EVENTS THERE WITH SYMPATHY, AND THAT "WE SHARPLY CONDEMN" ATTEMPTS AT OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE. OF COURSE HIS ASSERTION OF POLITICAL AND MATERIAL SUPPORT FOR PEOPLES "FIGHTING FOR...SOCIAL LIBERATION" (PARA 4) IS MEANT FOR PORTUGAL AS WELL AS FOR OTHER COUNTRIES.

8. SUSLOV PARROTS STANDARD POSITIONS ON THE MIDDLE EAST, REFERRING TO THE NEED FOR A "COMPLEX APPROACH" TO SOLUTION OF THE AREA'S PROBLEMS. ON SOUTHEAST ASIA, HE SUPPORTS THE RIGHT OF VIETNAM, CAMBODIA, AND LAOS TO DETERMINE THEIR FUTURE "WITHOUT OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE." HE MAKES NO DIRECT MENTION OF THE U.S. IN HIS REMARKS ON SEASIA, AND HIS STATEMENT THAT THE SOVIET PEOPLE "WELCOME THE REMARKABLE SUCCESSES" OF THE "PATRIOTIC

FORCES" WAS MET WITH THE SAME APPLAUSE AWARDED OTHER,
MORE MUNDANE PRONOUNCEMENTS.

9. SUSLOV DEVOTED ONLY TWO SENTENCES TO CHINA, BOTH
ALONG THE USUAL LINES AND AS USUAL THE TWO PRC OFFICIALS
PRESENT AT THE CEREMONY WALKED OUT.
STJUSSEL

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